

Bathing Water Profile for Aberdour Harbour (Black Sands)

Aberdour, Scotland

Current water classification <https://www2.sepa.org.uk/BathingWaters/Classifications.aspx>

Description Aberdour Harbour (Black Sands) bathing water is located in Fife adjacent to the town of Aberdour. The 0.7 kilometre long beach is a mixture of sand and rocks.

The beach is popular with walkers. Seals can often be seen on shore to the west.

During high and low tides the approximate distance to the water's edge can vary from 0–200 metres. For local tide information see: <http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/>



Site details	Local authority	Fife Council
	Year of designation	2010
	Water sampling location	NT 19400 85000
	EC bathing water ID	UKS7616086

Catchment description

The immediate catchment draining into the Aberdour Harbour (Black Sands) bathing water extends to approximately 13 km². The area is predominantly rural (94%) with arable horticulture and grassland the major land uses. Just over 4% of the bathing water catchment is urban. The main population centre is Aberdour town. There are a number of small scattered settlements within the catchment although population density outside of the town is generally low.

The main river within the bathing water catchment is the Dour Burn which flows into the sea on the north-eastern boundary of the designated area.

Risks to water quality

The principal risks and source of wet weather driven short term pollution at this bathing water arise from combined sewer overflows.

There is a risk that water pollution may occur after heavy rainfall. **Bathing is not advised during or 1-2 days after heavy rainfall. This is due to the risk to bathers' health from water pollution.**

Our regulatory and scientific assessment indicates that potential sources of short-term faecal indicator pollution at this bathing water can originate from human or animal sources.

Map 1: Aberdour Harbour (Black Sands) bathing water



Map 2: Catchment draining into Aberdour Harbour (Black Sands) bathing water



Improving bathing water quality

Improving diffuse pollution from agricultural sources

Diffuse pollution from agricultural sources is the cumulative effect of pollutants from several different sources.

There are usually cattle in the immediate vicinity of the Dour Burn at the harbour area which may give rise to bovine faecal pollution.

Tackling diffuse agricultural pollution requires concerted action across catchments. We will ensure this by working with farmers to help them identify actions to prevent and reduce pollution.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae)

Marine waters are not at risk of cyanobacteria overproduction.

Algae

Current information suggests that this bathing water is not at risk of excessive growth of macroalgae (seaweed) or phytoplankton.

Jellyfish

There is a possibility of increased numbers of jellyfish in the water during summer months. This is a naturally occurring phenomenon. Most species common to the UK are harmless. The Marine Conservation Society advises to 'look but don't touch'.

Responding to pollution incidents

Please use our 24 hour hotline (0800 80 70 60) to report pollution. SEPA will investigate the incident and contact other relevant organisations. That may include Scottish Ministers, Scottish Water, the local authority and the relevant health board. Where necessary, measures will be put in place to resolve the problem.

If beach users or bathers are considered to be at risk, the local authority will warn the public by erecting signs at the bathing water. Information will also be available on our website.

SEPA will investigate whenever our sampling identifies pollution.

Beach users are encouraged to use the bins provided or to take litter home. Beach cleaning and litter clean-up is maintained by Fife Council for this bathing water.

Contact details and information sources

SEPA Glenrothes office Pentland Court The Saltire Centre Glenrothes KY6 2DA 01592 776910 www.sepa.org.uk	Fife Council Fife House North Street Glenrothes KY7 5LT 08451 55 00 00 fife.council@fife.gov.uk www.fife.gov.uk	Keep Scotland Beautiful 01786 471333 beach@ksbscotland.org.uk www.keeptscotlandbeautiful.org
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Scottish Government

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www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Environment/Water/15561/bathingwaters

Version number:	Date:	Next review due:
1.0	Nov 2010	
1.1	March 2014	
1.2	June 2015	
1.3	April 2020	